

NEWS RELEASE from

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lipinski Applauds Chicago Rail Plan

[WASHINGTON, DC] - Yesterday, the City of Chicago, the State of Illinois, and the six Class I railroads announced their agreement on a \$1.5 billion plan to ease Chicago rail congestion and rail-related traffic dilemmas. The plan includes at least 6 railroad to railroad separations and 25 highway-rail crossings.

“For all six major railroads, city officials, state officials and Metra to come together on a plan such as this, it’s an incredible, historic achievement.” Lipinski said. “This plan will not only improve the public’s quality of life by reducing traffic backups, idling trains, commuter train delays, and safety incidents, but it is also important to the entire nation’s economy.”

Moving freight across the Chicago region by rail, a passage made by nearly a third of the nation’s total rail shipments, typically takes two days or more, with train speeds averaging between 6.8 and 12 m.p.h. Each year, the Chicago rail plan’s corridors handle freight valued at approximately \$350 billion.

“The Chicago bottleneck is the number one freight bottleneck in the country. By helping freight to move through Chicago quicker, this plan would make the freight less expensive and benefit people across the country,” stated Lipinski.

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